An Account of the Late PROPOSALS *of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with some other Bishops, to his Majesty.*

In a LETTER *to* M. B. *Esq;*

SIR,

I Am much surprized at the ill Constructions some people make of the Actions of those Bishops, who have lately waited upon the King; especially considering that most of Them are the very Men, who not many months ago appeared so publickly and so courageously, even to the hazard of all the Interests they had in this World, in defence of our Protestant Religion, and the Laws of the Land.

In order to the removing all groundless Jealousies, and unreasonable Surmises, in an Affair of so great consequence, which our Popish Enemies will, I am sure, be very ready to foment and keep up, I have here sent you the Heads of those matters which were proposed by them to the King.

They waited upon Him not as a Party separate either from the Nobility or Gentry, whom they could (I believe) have wished his Majesty would rather have called for at this Juncture, or from the rest of the Bishops or Clergy of *England*: but as persons whom the King was pleased, upon Reasons known only to his Royal Breast, to command to attend upon him.

The Heads which I send you, are not taken from any Copy of the Paper which my Lords the Bishops presented to the King. I understand that all their Lordships have been extreamly careful to prevent the publishing of any Copies, and that they still refuse to communicate any, though they now lie under no Obligations to the contrary. However, I do assure you with all faithfulness, that these Heads which I am now sending you, are true Contents obtain'd by another method, which in prudence you will imagine not fit for me to discover.

You have already been told from me, that every one of these Bishops were sent for up out of their Dioceses by *Expresses* from his Majesty, whom they first waited on in a Body, on *Friday* the 28th of *September*. I cannot, upon the strictest inquiry, find that any thing passed between the King and Them, at that first attendance upon him, besides general Expressions of Favour and Protection from his

Majesty, and general returns of Duty and Loyalty from the Bishops. This was matter of admiration to us all here, who could not believe but that the King had other Intentions of a nearer, and more particular concern, when he was retired to send so far for some of these Bishops: but these Alterations in Courts are things not fit for you or I to meddle with.

However, my Lords the Bishops were not satisfied herewith, concluding (as I suppose) that his Majesty would not have sent for them so far, if he had not intended to have advised with them in this Juncture, and so give them the liberty of offering him such Counsels as they thought necessary at this time; and therefore when his Grace my Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury* waited on the King alone the fifth time, on *Sunday* morning, *Sept.* 30th. being indisposed when the other Bishops attended on *Friday*, their Lordships did, by my Lord of *Canterbury*, intimate their thoughts about that Affair, and their readiness to the King's service, who was pleased not only to permit them to give him the best and most particular Advices, but to encourage them to do it with all the freedom that was necessary for the present occation.

Upon this Royal Invitation their Lordships assembled together next day at my Lord of *Canterbury*'s Palace, and prepared, upon the most mature deliberation, such Matters as they judged necessary for his Majesty's knowledge and consideration: and on the *Wednesday* after waited on the King in a Body, when his Grace in his own, and in the name of the rest of the Bishops then present, did in a most excellent Speech represent to his Majesty such things as were thought by them absolutely necessary to the Settlement of the Nation, as midst the present Distractions, and to the publick Interest of Church and State.

I am assured that his Grace deliver'd himself upon this Critical Occation, as with all dutifulness to his Majesty, so with all the readiness and the courage that did become such an Apostolical Archbishop as God hath blest our *Church of England* with at this time.

You must not expect here his excellent Words, but an Abridgement of them, according to my Talent, in a meaner stile.

1. *First, the Bishops thought fit to represent in general to his Majesty, That it was necessary for Him to restore all things to the state in which He found them when He came to the Crown, by committing all Offices and Places of Trust in the Government, to such of the Nobility and Gen-*

try, as were qualified for them, according to the Laws of this Kingdom; and by Redressing and Removing such Grievances as were generally complain'd of.

II. Particularly, *That His Majesty would Dissolve the Ecclesiastical Commission, and promise to His People never to Erect any such Court for the future.*

III. *That He would not only put an effectual stop to the issuing forth of any Dispensations, but would Call in, and Cancel all those which had since his coming to the Crown been obtained from Him.*

IV. *That he would Restore the Universities to their Legal State, and to their Statutes and Customs, and would particularly Restore the Master of* Magdalen Colledge *in* Cambridge, *to the Profits of his Mastership, which he had been so long Deprived of, by an Illegal Suspension; and the Ejected President and Fellows of* Magdalen Colledge *in* Oxford, *to their Properties in that Colledge: And, That He would not permit any Persons to enjoy any of the Preferments in either University, but such as are qualified by the Statutes of the Universities, the particular Statutes of their several Foundations, and the Laws of the Land.*

V. *That He would suppress the Jesuits Schools opened in this City, or elsewhere, and grant no more Licenses for such Schools as are apparently against the Laws of this Nation, and His Majesty's True Interest.*

VI. *That He would send Inhibitions after those Four* Romish Bishops, *who under the Title of* Apostolick Vicars, *did presume to Exercise within this Kingdom such Jurisdictions as are by the Laws of the Land Invested in the Bishops of the* Church of England, *and ought not to be Violated or Attempted by them.*

VII. *That He would suffer no more* Quo Warranto's *to be issued out against any Corporations, but would restore to those Corporations which had been already disturbed, their ancient Charters, Priviledges, Grants, and Immunities, and Condemn all those late Illegal Regulations of Corporations, by putting them into their late Flourishing Condition, and Legal Establishment.*

VIII. *That He would fill up all the Vacant Bishopricks in* England *and* Ireland, *with Persons duly qualified according to the Laws: and would especially take into His Consideration the See of* York, *whose want of an Archbishop is very prejudicial to that whole Province.*

IX. *That He would Act no more upon a Dispensing Power, nor insist upon it; but permit that Affair at the first Session of a Parliament to be fairly Stated and Debated, and Settled by Act of Parliament.*

X. *That*

X. *That upon the Restoration of Corporations to their Antient Charters, and Boroughs to their Prescriptive Rights, He would Order Writs to be issued out for a fair and free Parliament, and suffer it to Sit to Redress all Grievances, to Settle Matters in Church and State upon just and solid Foundations, and to Establish a due Liberty of Conscience.*

XI. Lastly, and above all, *That His Majesty would permit some of His Bishops, to lay such Motives and Arguments before him, as might by the Blessing of* GOD, *bring back His Majesty unto the Communion of Our Holy Church of* England, *into whose Catholick Faith He had been Baptized, in which He had been Educated, and to which in our their earnest and daily Prayer to Almighty* GOD, *that His Majesty might be re-united.*

All these Councels were concluded with a Prayer to GOD, in whose Hands the Hearts of Kings are, for a good Effect upon them; especially the last, about bringing the King back to the Protestant Religion.

And now, Sir, I cannot but ask you, What grounds there are for any Mens Jealousies of the Bishops Proceedings? Pray shew this Letter to all your Friends, that some may lay down their Fears, and others may have this Antidote against taking any up. I do assure you, and I am certain, I have the best grounds in the World for my assurance, That the Bishops will never stir one Jot from their PETITION; but that they will, whenever that happy Opportunity shall offer itself, let the Protestant Dissenters find that they will be better than their Word given in their Famous PETITION.

In the mean time let You and I, Commend the Prudence of these Excellent Bishops, Admire their Courage, and Celebrate their just Praises, and never forget to offer up most fervent Thanks to GOD, for his Adorning the Church of *England*, at this Juncture, with such Eminent Apostolical Bishops. I am with all Respect

Yours,

N. N.

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